The Prydonian RENEGADE

Vol V, # 8 November, 1988 The Newsletter of Prydonians of Prynceton

Come Join Us for Our Holiday Celebration !

Our Fourth Annual Christmas Party will be held on Saturday, December 17, from 7 pm to whenever at the Huntington Park Clubhouse in Belle Mead, New Jersey (the site of our Birthday Party last March), right off Route 206 about six miles south of Somerville, NJ. For information, call Tom Beck at 609-921-8148 or Steve Lesnik at 201-874-5837.

Food and nonalcoholic drink will be appreciated. We will try to arrange rides for people without transportation, if you give us enough advance notice. Come celebrate the holiday spirit with your fellow club members!

Directions are as follows:

From north of Belle Mead-head south on 206 from Somerville (about 6 miles). At the intersection of 206 and Amwell Road you will see the DeCanto Shopping Center and a Mobil station on your right and the Nelson's Corner Shopping Center on your left. Continue south to the next traffic light, which is the intersection of Raider Road and Route 206. Turn right onto Raider. Take the first left into the Greenfields. Continue to the second right which leads into a large parking area next to the Clubhouse.

From south of Belle Mead-head north on 206 from Princeton (about 9 miles). As you get close look for the Belle Mead Garage (Chrysler-Plymouth) on your left, then the Belle Mead Post Office on your left. At the next light, turn left onto Raider Road and follow the directions above.

In March, we saw some new faces, due to the more northerly location. Let's do it again. See you there.

NJN Celebration Selling Out

New Jersey Network's *Doctor Who* 25th Anniversary Celebration is almost sold out! This one-day extravaganza, starring Sylvester McCoy and Sophie Aldred, which will be held on Saturday, November 19 from 11 am to 6 pm at the Newark Airport Marriott Hotel, will be limited to only 500 attendees. Tickets are $15 and include lunch and a snack. Call 609-530-5032 for ticket information. Tickets will be available at the hotel on the day of the Celebration—if there are any left.

The tentative schedule of events is as follows: 11-11:30: arrival; 11:30-11:45: introductions and opening ceremonies; noon-1: premiere of Eric Luskin's new special, "The Making of *Doctor Who*;" 1-2: lunch; 2-3: talk session—questions and answers with Sylvester and Sophie; 3-5: autographs/fan club panel session (organized by members of the Prydonians, the Unearthly Children, and the Jersey Jagaroth); 5 (or thereabouts): raffle drawing/wrap-up. This schedule may change a bit on the day of the event.

About that raffle: NJN is raffling off a trip for two to London! Transportation is on Virgin Atlantic Airways, and the trip includes four nights at Crest Hotels in London. Tickets are $5 and will be sold in advance and at the Celebration. For raffle ticket information, call 609-921-8148.

The evening of the 19th, NJN will have its first live on-air fundraiser in almost two years, with Sylvester and Sophie helping out members of the three above mentioned clubs in answering phones at NJN's Newark studio. So call and pledge. You may get to talk to the Doctor or Ace! And you will certainly be sending a vote of confidence and support for your favorite PBS station and its programming.

Doctor Who in Britain

"Remembrance of the Daleks," the first story of Season 25, concluded showing in the UK on October 26. It was very well received, although viewing figures are not yet available. Reports say that it is a nifty combination of humor and action; the special effects are supposed to be sensational! Let's hope this is a good omen for the rest of the season. The transmission order for the remaining stories is as follows: "The Happiness Patrol" will run on November 2, 9, and 16; "Silver Nemesis" will be shown as a 90-minute special on November 23, the actual date of the 25th Anniversary; and "The Greatest Show in the Galaxy" will round out the season on November 30, December 7, 14, and 21. With luck, we may see the new stories in February or March.

Still no official word from Britain yet on the renewal of *Doctor Who* for a twenty-sixth season or on the next producer. As stated previously the current rumor is that John Nathan-Turner may be persuaded to stay on (Sylvester McCoy has reportedly been trying to get him to stay).

NOTE: My apologies to those of you who were disappointed to read some tidbits from the new season in last month's newsletter. I have been duly admonished and will give warning "to go no further" next time. Ed.

Letters of Comment

Dear Prydonians:

I am responding to Chris Krisocki's letter in the October *Renegade*. Chris states that he does not have much interest in the newsletter these days. As the former editor and as a current avid reader of Linda Anne's issues, I must say that if Chris can't find things of interest in the *Renegade*, he probably can't and won't find anything of interest in any fan club newsletter anywhere. "All it seems to have are directions to meetings I can't get to and reviews of expensive *BF* fanzines"? Oh, come on, Chris. Last month we ran the prizewinning story in our *DW* contest; a play review; news of upcoming conventions; an article on merchandise; an article on fannish manners; and another contribution to our ongoing discussion of the supposed "decline" of *Doctor Who*. Previous months' issues have contained jokes, puzzles, competitions, hoaxes, news, convention notices and reports, and all sorts of other features and articles. What more do you expect? What do you want? Why not contribute yourself, or at least tell us what you would find of interest?

About not being able to make it to meetings: we have members coming from New York City (and beyond) and from as far away as Delaware and Long Island to attend our meetings and parties; we have repeatedly stated our willingness to arrange rides or to pick up people at the train station. We'll do almost anything to get you to a meeting. All you have to do is ask.

Fanzines are expensive. That's why the club started and maintains a lending library. For any of you who haven't yet discovered fan fiction, I heartily recommend it. Many of the stories are excellent, most are at least interesting, and you may even find yourself drawn into writing on your own! And our library is an excellent place to get started.

All that said, I still suggest that the *Renegade* is hardly filled with only directions to meetings and fanzine reviews.

About fans in Essex County: have you considered joining the Jersey Jagaroth, who are based in northern New Jersey? They would be glad to put you in touch with fans in your area. Their address is PO Box 223, Morristown, NJ 07960. Dues are, I believe, $8 a year. Also, our own Club Pen-Pal service could help you find nearby fans. Any Essex County Whovians want to correspond with Chris?

As for Chris's comment that my article in the September *Renegade* missed the point about fans' criticism of recent *Doctor Who*, actually it is Chris who has missed my points. While there was criticism in England and the US of the Peter Davison series, there has always been criticism of *Doctor Who* in every era, of every Doctor. There are always going to be fans who become addicted to the show in one particular time and style and who want the show to remain in that style. For example, there are numbers of American fans who will watch only the Tom Baker stories; that is *Doctor Who* to them, and that's it. But such people are hardly objective critics. To respond to his quote about "The Five Doctors," a poll we once took of our own membership placed that episode as most members' favorite.

One of the problems inherent in such a discussion is many fans' tendency to cast a fond penumbra over the show's past. Bad stories are forgotten, favorite ones are imbued with such legendary power that they overshadow more recent developments. While we have an advantage over British fans in that we can see reruns, still, most American fans tend to center their preferences, indeed their entire understanding of what *Doctor Who* is, in the period, and the Doctor, being shown by their local PBS station when they first discovered the program. Most fans' favorite Doctor is the one they first encountered; their notion of what the show should be like is also highly colored by their initial experience of it. Many of them become rather conservative regarding any deviation.

Others, especially fans who have come recently to the show or who have been unable to sample earlier periods, are simply unaware of the tremendous changes that have characterized its entire 25 year history. They think that any current problems are the only problems the show has ever had; this is, of course, nonsense. For the public controversies sur-

continued on page 4

The High Council

Tom Beck, 216 Witherspoon Street, Princeton, NJ 08540, 609-921-8148. Cathy Boudreau, 412 Columbus Avenue, Tuckahoe, NY 10707, 914-337-1621. Linda Anne Lineaweaver, 4D8 Arbor Green, Beverly, NJ 08010, 609-877-3464. Maureen Mulholland, 1203 Noreen Drive, Burlington Township, NJ 08016, 609-386-6813. Kim Elaine Neighbor, 717 Trumbull Avenue, Lawrenceville, NJ 08648, 609-396-2858.

* * * * *

The Prydonian *Renegade* is published monthly by the Prydonians of Prynceton Inc., a not-for-profit corporation. Address of publication: 216 Witherspoon Street, Princeton, NJ 08540. Second-class postage paid at Princeton, New Jersey. Copyright 1988 Prydonians of Prynceton, Inc. All rights reserved. *Doctor Who and Blakes 7* are Copyright 1988 BBC. This newsletter is published solely to inform and entertain the club's members, and no infringement of anyone else's legitimate copyrights in intended. Postmaster: Send change-of-address forms to PO Box 3194, Princeton, NJ 08540. The Prydonians of Prynceton are a charter chapter of the *Doctor Who* Fan Club of America (DWFCA) and of the North East Matrix (NEM).

* * *

Dues for the Prydonians of Prynceton is, as of November 1, 1988, $8.00 for regular, $9.00 for family and $6.00 for students and senior citizens.

* * * * *

CONTRIBUTORS, THIS ISSUE:

Tom Beck, Pat Bishof, Cathy Boudreau, Daniel Gasiewski, Stephen Lesnik, Robin J. Maltese and Sue Ann Sarick.

* * *

Editor (and fanzine librarian): Linda Anne Lineaweaver

Typist: Maureen B. Mulholland

For Your Information

November 20 is Our Anniversary Party

Our annual *Doctor Who* Anniversary Party, held jointly with the Unearthly Children, is scheduled for Sunday, November 20 (the day after the NJN Celebration in Newark) at the home of High Councilor Maureen B. Mulholland in Burlington Township, NJ. Starting time is 2 pm if you are an Unearthly Child (it's their club meeting) and 3:30 pm till 9 pm for everyone else. Donations of food and drink, especially dinner items, would be appreciated. For directions, look in last month's Renegade or call Maureen at 609-386-6813 or Linda Anne at 609-877-3464.

Join us for Thanksgiving at the Penta

Paul Darrow will be the guest of honor (at least for us) at the annual Creation Thanksgiving Show at the Penta Hotel in NYC on November 25-27. I believe that Paul will only be appearing on Saturday and Sunday so don't go on Friday with hopes of seeing him. Also scheduled for appearances are Anthony Perkins and David (Mouse) Greenlee. This is always a great convention and much anticipated by those who have attended in past years.

Togetherness At Scorpio VII

By a lucky stroke of fate, a group of Phily/NJ fans ended up having rooms together at SCORPIO VI. We've decided it was so much fun we want to try for a repeat. Is anyone interested? You will still reserve your rooms by the card, but should also call Pat Bishof at (215) 887-2588 with your list of roommates. Names will be accepted no later than Nov. 30 to ensure the hotel can block enough rooms for us.

Pen Pals to Go

The club is still running its Pen Pal service. If you would like to correspond with another fan (or fans), send us a note with your age, interests, and preference (*DW*, *B7*, or both) and a SASE. We'll send you similar information from all others who have responded so far, with periodical updates (if you keep a SASE on file with us). Write "Pen Pal" on the outside of your envelope and send it to us at our box address: PO Box 3194, Princeton, NJ 08543-3194..

Gambit Travel Service Online

As we did last year with DSV One, we will attempt to help members planning on attending Gambit with their travel and hotel plans. If you need a ride to the Newark Airport Holiday Inn North (or can offer one) or need roomspace at the hotel (or have a room and need roommates), send us a brief note for the *Renegade*. Write "Gambit Travel Service" on your envelope and send it, as above, to our PO Box.. By the way, the club takes no responsibility for any matchups that occur as a result of this service—but it is a nice way of meeting new and interesting people who may, in turn, become new and interesting friends.

BANNERS AWAY ! !

Here's a reminder that back in the August *Renegade*, we mentioned that the GAMBIT Committee was planning a banner contest for their Con Suite and that we had decided that this was a good time to have our own contest in order to retire our tired and worn club banner. GAMBIT rules (and therefore ours) are: banner may be of any size, shape or material up to a maximum of 30"x40" and fringes, bangles or any other kind of adornment are only limited by your imagination. The club contest will close and be judged at the Christmas Party of December17. You do not nave to be present to win.

Halloween Party a Real Treat

Halloween Party II (The Sequel), held on October 29 at Gallifrey East II, was a smashing success, deemed by all who attended as one of the best parties the club has ever held. The highlight was a Son of Caption Contest, in which members vied to come up with silly captions for photos of *Blakes 7* stars and club members. Thanks to Dorothy Case for supplying the photos and to Julie Florez for judging the winners. Dorothy also brought a jar full of tiny plastic spiders for a contest—guess the number! Diana Klopf came closest, with a guess of 69 (the correct number was 71). Julie had the silliest costume, a giant-sized version of the fringed juggling balls she carries around. Thanks to everyone who contributed to the gigantic pile of goodies, much of which was left over and will be used at future club events. To the relief of the host, Tom Beck, last year's graveyard romp was NOT repeated. Looking forward to HP III, anyone? Boo!

B7 Story Contest Ongoing

We've already received one entry to our second annual *Blakes 7* Story Contest. To remind you of the rules, each story submitted (and you can send as many as you want) must be: original, never-before-published, not under consideration anywhere else, typed, less than 2000 words long, about some aspect of the *B7* Universe, and accompanies by a $1 entry fee. Your name should appear on each page of the submission (number the pages, please). Write "*B7* Story Contest" on the envelope. Be sure to keep a copy for yourself. All submissions become club property. The deadline will be in mid-January. Hope to hear from you soon!

Letters of Comment

continued from page 2:

rounding *Doctor Who* now are absolutely nothing compared with the storm of criticism raging during Tom Baker's first two seasons. The difficulties it is currently having in gaining a commitment from the BBC for future seasons are little different from the doubt its future was in toward the end of Patrick Troughton's era. What may be new is the intense criticism of the show from its British fans; they, however, form a very small percentage of its still large audience.

Doctor Who is not a unified, immutable essence, like some Platonic form. It is a basic format constantly undergoing change as new producers, script editors, writers, directors, and actors join it or depart. There have been good times and bad, ups and downs, periods of smooth sailing and seasons of storm and peril. Those who label John Nathan-Turner's producership a period of only decay and failure unique in the show's history (as so many seem to do) are either ignorant of the show's past or deliberately denying that past in order to make their criticism seem much harsher. I don't mean to sound like an uncritical supporter of JNT, but I am trying to balance the books a little. I mean, if you don't like what he has done, fine, but don't think that he's the only producer of the show to have had a point of view about it that some fans have hated. Graham Williams and Philip Hinchcliffe were just as controversial in their time.

The fact that Nathan-Turner has drawn more criticism than any other producer of the show is attributable to the fact that he has been around much longer thanany other producer and also that he has (deliberately) been much more visible than any other producer. A fair, unbiased view of his term (if such is possible any longer) would find some excellent episodes, some good ones, some fair ones, and some very poor ones. A look at any other producer's reign would find the exact same thing. Gosh, we used to periodize *Doctor Who's* history by Doctor; are we going to have to do it by Producer now?

As for Season 22, yes it received some criticism at the time; all seasons do. But it was much better received than any season in years. As for why its ratings dropped from week to week, well, when have ratings necessarily been a guide to quality? First of all, it was being shown at a new time. Secondly, the new 45-minute format was not popular. Finally, it was up against The *A-Team* on ITV (and to think that some people criticized *Doctor Who* for being too violent!). In my previous article I dealt with Michael Grade's reasons for cancelling the show in the middle of Season 22. It had nothing to do with the ratings. Grade wanted to be seen as dealing strongly with the BBC's general loss of viewers to ITV. He wanted a visible coup to make a personal splash. Also, he never liked Doctor Who regardless of its content. As I stated in September, his publicly stated reasons for the cancellation all proved in the course of time to be lies. In any case, as I asked then, why is Michael Grade's vengeful action to be taken as a legitimate criticism of the show. I thought we Whovians didn't like him; what suddenly makes him an authority on good or bad *Doctor Who* ?

Continuing with Krisocki's criticisms. Nathan-Turner's use of returning monsters is, of course, not above reproach. But again, he is not the first producer to be guilty of violating (or at least fiddling with) continuity in favor of the needs of the moment or the particular show in production. Personally, I don't think anything he did was as bad as the decay of the Daleks in "Death to the Daleks" or "Destiny of the Daleks." I don't see anything wrong with the use of Omega in "Arc of Infinity" or of the Black Guardian in "Enlightenment," and I thought "Attack of the Cybermen" was mostly excellent. The Sontarans in "Two Doctors" were an afterthought of the writer, and while the masks were inferior to older ones, the expense of shooting the episode in Spain made it impractical to invest in better ones. Besides, it is not the first episode with poor costumes! Finally, what, pray tell, did you find objectionable in "Mark of the Rani?"

The hypercritical British fans you mention are a tiny, tiny, TINY minority of all British viewers. They are mostly young men in their teens or, at most, early twenties, who almost fit the stereotypical cliche view of fans in general as immature nerds. They have done their cause far more harm than good with their hysterical carping and personal attacks on JNT. They have made fandom seem ridiculous and shameful. They have brought the show itself into disrepute. Hardly a way to serve what they claim to love, is it? As I said in September, a more gentle, more reasoned approach would have worked much better.

I am hardly arguing that the Nathan-Turner years have been perfect. The show has seen better days (also much worse ones), although on the whole he has done a pretty good job. On the other hand, as I wrote last time, this is only a silly little TV show, not worth the agonies and passions that have been displayed in all the controversies of the last few years. There's no "good old days" or "golden age," folks. *Doctor Who* has gone through many good and bad periods. Period. People with no memory, or with too much memory, are likely to overrate both. Even the best times had some bad stories, and there have usually been a few gems among the dross in down years. Besides, this is all too subjective for analysis; one fan's feat is another's foible.

Doctor Who will never be able to please every fan. Why should it? It never has in the past. I agree with most fans that it is time (perhaps long past time) for Nathan-Turner to move on and leave the show in new hands. Nevertheless, while not letting him off the hook for his mistakes, I honor him for his many achievements. I think that most honest fans, if they were to put aside their prejudices and passions and look at the actual reasons why certain things were done at the time and why certain things happened, would realize that not everything they dislike was his fault and would find it in their hearts to concede that his tenure was, if not totally than at least primarily a time of growth and useful change for *Doctor Who.*

Tom Beck.

2nd PLACE-STORY CONTEST:

CUTTER

by Daniel Gasiewski

"NO! PLEASE! Please spare us!"

The black-robed figure advanced mercilessly on them. They looked pleadingly at the Highlord behind it. The figure stopped. The Highlord waited an ecstatic second, savoring the fear of the two victims cowering before him, then ordered the Cutter forward. It obeyed instantly, raising its scythe.

They screamed again, a raw, primitive scream. No words, just a primal call to the land and the heavens. The two voices rose together, their scream striking cold the hearts of all who heard it.

A flash of silver, and silence.
A peal of unholy laughter.

A scream of some unearthly beast, fading into a groan of utter hopelessness. A futile stab of light into the obsidian darkness. A ghost fading into the material plane, then flowing back into oblivion, filled with horror. It returned, growing stronger and stronger after each dematerialisation. And then, finally, the apparition solidified. It was an impressive monolith. Rectangular and made of a dusty blue color, it fit well with the dull greys, blacks, and browns of the place, looking like some oracle long neglected by both the gods and their people. The lamp atop it flashed a last ray of light, then died away. The Doctor opened the TARDIS door and cautiously looked around. "No rays from the holy heaven come down / On the long night-time of that town," he quoted solemnly. Jamming his straw hat onto his head, he left the TARDIS, quickly followed by Ace, his companion.

"Where are we, Doctor?"

"I only wish I knew," replied the Doctor absently, staring at the sky. "Someone," he continued, now rooting through a nearby pile of rubble, "or something, brought us here. Now, if only I could find the tansmitter..."

"Couldn't we..." Ace thought a moment, "pop back in time and see where whoever it was put it?"

"Wouldn't work... there's a whole planet to search. Remember...a stitch in Time takes up Space."

He wandered off down a dark alley

The phone rang, and Ara answered it quickly, for there was only one person who could contact citizens by telephone. "Yes?"

"I need to see you. Come immediately," said the harsh, clipped voice at the other end.

"Now?"

"Now."

"But it's after curfew."

The Highlord was now angered. "Stupid woman! Do you think that I wouldn't take care of that?"

A click sounded from the other end. Ara was torn. To go outside after curfew meant almost certain death—but so was disobeying a direct order from the Highlord. Timidly, she stepped out of the house, awaiting the cold slash of the Cutter's blade.

But it did not come. She looked up, and breathed a sigh of relief as she saw the Highlord standing next to the blue monolith. She stepped towards him.

The split second's difference between her footsteps and the Cutter's warned her of the danger. She ran frantically to the shelter of the Highlord, who watched her with an amused grin on his face. The Cutter waited until her fingers almost brushed the Highlord's robes before its blade whistled through the air and sliced cleanly through her neck. Without any hint of emotion, the Doctor—the Highlord—picked up the head. The body he set up against the TARDIS door, with a note shoved into the mouth of the head, which he placed next to the body. Once they had gone, the Doctor told Ace to stay in the alley, while he went to the TARDIS to get a tracking device. She knew he was lying, but the Doctor was insistent, and she knew she shouldn't cross him.

The Doctor, on reaching the body, recoiled in disgust. Even he, who had seen Death so many times, could barely keep the tears back. Because he had watched. He hadn't acted, because of ... what?

"Fear," he could hear in his mind. Voices chanted it over and over again. He tried to argue with the voices in his mind. "No...No... Out of... concern.."

"For your own life," they responded maliciously. Guilt washed over him in waves, and he was drowning in a sea of accusations, sorrow, and helplessness. "No... no..." his knees became weak, and he fell. The voices kept on, accusing, malicious... right.

Ace couldn't stand it any longer. She crept out of the alley. "Doctor?" she called. She couldn't see him—he had gone around to the front of the TARDIS. She called out his name again. There was no answer, so she assumed that he was inside the TARDIS. She came around the corner of the time machine and saw everything. A headless corpse, the head lying next to it. A blood-soaked scrap of paper in the Doctor's hand. The Doctor's hand was cold when she felt it. His eyes staring at nothing.

Her piercing cry cut through the air, shrieking with the fury of a thousand shattered lives.

The Doctor smiled. Laughed.

Triumphant, he announced "At last I am free!"

"Ace..." murmured the Doctor.

"Yeah?" asked Ace, quickly crossing the TARDIS console room to where she had dragged the Doctor after finding his key.

"...woul...sgr...nd...rge..."

"I know," she said comfortingly, with no idea what he had been trying to say. I'm just glad to see you alive." It was a gross understatement, she knew, but words failed her.

The Doctor heard the emotion in her voice. It was good to have someone who cared. Tired. Want to sleep. Can't. A sudden surge of energy rushed through him, and he got to his feet. "Come on Ace," he called after him as he stepped out of the TARDIS.

He stopped at the corpse, which ACE had shoved to one side of the door with a stick. After digging through through the rubbish pile next to the TARDIS the Doctor produced a shovel.

continued on the next page

CUTTER cont.:

by Daniel Gasiewski

Resolutely, he began to dig. Ace came out of the TARDIS. "What are you digging for?"

"I'm digging," he threw another shovelful of dirt over his shoulder, "a...grave."

"But surely it would be better to nab whoever it was that killed her, wouldn't it?"

"But...it's...the...little...things...that...count ...remember..." he stopped digging for a moment, still gasping for breath, "a penny saved...is...well, it's practically worthless, isn't it? You're right. There are far more important things to do than this. That'll have to be deep enough." He threw the body into the shallow grave and rapidly began shovelling dirt back into the hole. Soon it was filled, and he dropped his shovel and collapsed against the TARDIS. He stood there for a few minutes, panting.

"Doctor?"

He flopped his head in Ace's general direction.

"Shouldn't we go! We don't know who or what did it, and we have no idea where they are!"

"Yes we do."

"What?"

"I did it."

Ace backed away slowly from him, till she fell over a beam sticking out of the rubble pile.

"No, no," he said, as he realised what it had it had sounded like to Ace, "not actually ME, you understand, but a future regeneration of mine. And I'm almost sure I know where I - he is."

"Well, where?"

"Do you see that huge mansion on that hill over there?"

"I can't miss it - the rest of the place's a slum."

"That's where he'll be."

"How do you know?"

"This note he gave me." He pulled it out of his pocket and read it: "'Creavi, Vici, Rego'. It means 'I created, I conquered, I rule'. Now that," he gestured towards the mansion, "looks more like a king's palace than one of these tenements, hmmm?"

Ace nodded.

"Then let's go." The two set out towards the center of the Doctor's web.

They soon reached it. It was garishly lavish and hideously overdone. Putting on a facade of false bravado, the Doctor strode up to the door (a huge carved wooden affair) and slammed the knocker viciously. After a few seconds, the door was opened by a pudgy old man with thick grey hair wearing an old-fashioned suit and vest. "J.J. Chambers' residence. May I help you?" And then a burst of laughter so deep and evil that it could not possibly come from the old man. The Doctor then rose to his full height, tore off the mask and suit to reveal his now-tattered Valeyard's robe that he had worn when he tried to have the Sixth Doctor executed, with his remaining lives to be given to him. Turning quickly, he saw an eight-foot figure, cloaked entirely in a black cowl, carrying a huge gleaming scythe, come up behind them. Beneath the hood, the Doctor could dimly see a face of steel mesh.

"A robot? I'm disappointed in you. I would think that I could do better than that."

"It isn't a robot," responded the Doctor.

"What is it then?" countered his seventh incarnation.

"I don't know. When I chose this planet for my trap, I found it completely barren. There had never been any life of any kind on it. I set up this colony and the next day it was standing where it is now. If it is a robot, then I have great respect for one that can assemble itself from dust overnight."

The Seventh Doctor thought he saw it tremble as his counterpart said that, but he couldn't be sure.

"Now it will kill you. I still have the contract you signed in the Fantasy Factory. When you die, I will not be a mere possibility, but a reality! Unfettered from the shackles of your 'good' and your morality, I will be free!" He signalled the Cutter forward. It did not move. He tried again. The Cutter moved forward, past the Seventh Doctor, towards his future incarnation.

"No! Him, oaf! the other one!"

"No." The voice was deep and distant, at once chillingly firghtening and warmly lyrical. "You say that you have respect for me, yet you use me as a menial servant. This is not respect.

"I am older than you could ever dream of in a thousand lives. I measure my life by the birth and collapse of Universes." A sadness crept into the voice, every year of those countless years adding a subtler shade of melancholy. "That is not respect, child."

Then, a sudden burst of anger. The fury and fire of the birth of a thousand Universes emerged in the voice. "And now, Revenge is MINE!" The Doctor had only enough time to feel the ultimate fear before the blade flashed down.

"No mercy for the merciless," toiled the voice, as it faded away.

Back in the TARDIS, Ace stared uncomprehending, as the Doctor calmly set the controls for another voyage.

"How can you just walk away from that and...and not feel anything?"

The Doctor walked over to her and put a hand on her shoulder. "Time heals all wounds."

"You sound like Poor Richard."

"Poor Richard is now a rich man," said the Doctor.

Ace smiled, but her expression suddenly turned to one of horror. The Doctor quickly turned to face his future incarnation.

"Time will only fuel my hatred of you. Remember that, until I kill you, I am merely a possibility. And the future and the past and their infinite paths stretch before me." The image began to fade.

"Remember, Doctor - there is always a possibility..."

More Letters of Comment—

Hi!

I'm originally from Minotola, NJ, but by a freak accident was teleported to Colorado and have been without my bracelet ever since. Oh well. I'm primarly a *B7* fan (as you may have guessed -and rather a new one, at that), altho' I try to catch *DW* whenever possible. Hope the distance won't disqualify me for membership in the Prydonians—a copy of the *Renegade* managed to filter its way out here (through a person who picked it up at another con and then came to Star Con 12 in Denver, where I met her) and it had a flyer inside with a membership application, and it just sounded too good to pass up. (Did that make any sense at all?) I realize I'll be unable to attend the monthly Assemblies in person (darn it), but please consider me there in spirit. Salutations from our small but growing unofficial *B7* fan group, "The Blake Flakes", who hope to someday make it out to NJ and meet you all face to face.

The cause lives on!

Robin J Maltese

Dear Prydonians,

I have to say that I totally disagree with Tom Beck on "Trial of A Time Lord." I did not think of it as an experiment in television that didn't work! I liked it so much that I am now looking at it on an out of town Toronto station because I don't have the luxury of having a VCR! To me it is very creative, and different, that's why I found it to be so entertaining! Look at the part where the Doctor went into the matrix and talked with that mysterious librarian and wandered through that dark mysterious town, meeting all those mysterious characters. It was a good stream of consciousness story. It reminded me of the same way a dream is constructed, sometimes the pieces fit and sometimes they don't. So I think if the viewer can relate to something in a film, then that work shows real merit! And I loved the way the dark evil figure turned out to be the dark side of the Doctor! I thought that was a good surprise ending reminiscient of the unexpected endings that used to dominate the old classic B&W *Twilight Zone* episodes!

To me, it was Turlough's constant meddling, with the Dark Guardian, trying clumsily from week to week to kill the Doctor through out most of Davison's first two seasons that constantly broke up and interfered with the storyline! It was both annoying and pathetic! And to think the Doctor was never supposed to suspect anything, was, in my opinion, asking the audience to lower their expectations of the Doctor! After having suffering thorugh three lackluster years of the 5th Doctor, Colin's portrayal was birght light in the darkness and a real sign of hope for the future survival of the show! His stories were like a beath of fresh air!

It was not until JNT got full control over the series that it seemed the show started to decline. He got to pick the leading actor, Peter Davison, who was so in awe over landing the role, that he obviously had no idea as to the kind of personality he wanted to convey. His Doctor was both naive (a nice word for stupid!) and very weak. I ask you, would any of the other Doctors ever consider sacrificing himself for such a ridiculous cause as in "Mawdryn Undead?" That was pathetic! And the only good thing about "Enlightenment" was that Turlough finally got to stop pretending to the Black Guardian that he was trying to kill the Doctor! Only the 21st Season was watchable. And that shows you the talent of JNT who created the character of Turlough, the worst companion ever! Mark Strickland seems to still be discouraged about the whole thing, even in recent interviews. Just when his character was starting to be humane, in "Planet Of Fire" he was written out of it! To me only the 21st Season was watchable. I mean just compare "Logopolis" to "Castovalva", it was a real letdown compared to Tom's final episode!

I have to agree with Chris Krisocki that the monsters JNT recycled were mere shadows of their former selves except for the Daleks! But I must disagree concerning the 22nd Season, after having survived through the 5th Doctor I was determined to have fun with the series and luckily I did! How could you possibly resist those delicate and beautiful creatures, the Cryons in "Attack of the Cybermen?" or "The Mark Of The Rani" which read like one of Tom Baker's classic episodes! Or the fascinating adventure of "Vengeance on Varos" and the dramatic climax when Peri was being turned into a bird? Even "Time Lash" held some merit when the Doctor became involved with H. G. Wells. Though Paul Darrow was sadly wasted in his role. And what of the brilliant characters in "Revelation of the Daleks?" The beginning scenes outside when the Doctor and Peri were wandering around, was the most beautiful cinematography I have ever seen in the show which took my breath away!

For me, Slyvester McCoy's first season was the worst dissapointment since the 5th Doctor! And its too bad, because he seems quite good in the role, if only they could give him better material to work with! I can see why in the interview I saw of him, that he was looking forward to a better season!

I thought that "Time and The Rani" would have been even better if only they would have eliminated those batlike creatures. They were totally childish. And after you think about it, there really was no reason for the Rani to pretend to be Melanie as long as she had drug-induced the Doctor with amnesia. But it was fun to watch Kate O'Mara acting like a young enthusiatic Mel!

"Paradise Towers" had such promising characters in the women warriors, but they failed to do much with their individiual personalities.

"Delta and The Bannermen" was in one word childish! There were too many silly chase scenes which didn't make any sense. And to add to the absurdity some circus melody played in the backround! So much more could have been done with Delta's child whose metamorphosis immediately reminded me of the Star Child Elizabeth in *V.*

continued on the next page

LOC's *continued from page 7*

"Dragonfire" I found to be quite fascinating. And Ace is certainly unique where female companions are concerned. She is an enthusiatic teenager who's only solution to a problem is to blow it up! She's a real tomboy. And that is why I still like Leela better. Even though she had no compunction about knifing people she still was able to convey an air of feminity about her. I hope they make Ace a bit more sensitive in the future. I also thought that it was quite interesting having a companion, Melanie, go off with a space pirate instead of having the Doctor neatly leave her off at her own chosed destination. It's as if her story can still go on! Who knows when or if she made it back to Earth!

I am hoping the 25th Season will improve. I feel there is a spark of hope as I was upset about the abrupt canning of Colin Baker, I was not looking forward to his replacement. Until I saw Colin, I never thought any other actor could do as credible a job as Tom did! I thought Colin brought back the much needed humor, enthusiasm and intelligence, into the role which seemed to be lacking in the 5th Doctor. But I am glad to report that half way through "Time And The Rani" I had forgotten about my disappointment. Though I suspect that both his ability as an actor and the interviews of McCoy I saw beforehand that gave me a glimpse of the real person behind the actor, helped to make the transision a lot easier for me.

By the way, to get off the subject just a bit, has anyone heard "Doctorin' The TARDIS" yet? I first heard it on a Toronto radio station. But now the local college station is playing it! If you're not into rock, unfortunately I don't think you can get into it. I wish they would have had more than just generic lyrics! But all in all, I do get a kick out of it everytime I hear it played. And I just wonder what other people think of it who aren't familiar with the series!

Well, I'd better go now. Thanks for giving me this space to shoot my mouth off!

Sue Ann Sarick

Please let me know if you enjoy these LOC's--or what? Ed.

GAMBIT

by Cathy Boudreau

As of this writing, GAMBIT is going strong with over 300 memberships sold and an exciting group of guests coming.

On a recent trip to England, our fearless leaders Marsha Quinn and Jude Wilson got a chance to see most of the guests and came back with exciting news. The accepted guest list now includes David Jackson, Gareth Thomas, Sheelagh Wells, Terry Nation and Michael Keating. Jacqueline Pearce has recently moved, but has expressed an interest in appearing, so keep your fingers and toes crossed (difficult to walk, I know, but great for luck).

Unfortunely Paul Darrow has had to cancel but for the best of reasons. He will be starring in a new play which is going into rehearsal shortly after Thanksgiving and will open on tour in January with a definite move to the West End (England's equivalent to Broadway). This is a new play and a real chance of a lifetime for an actor. He will be creating a role, not just doing an interpretation of it. The name of the play, I believe, is "Alibi For Murder." Janet Lees Price will probably stay in England as well to be with him. I know I speak for all of us when I say "BREAK A LEG, PAUL--YOU'LL BE MISSED."

Other news includes the committee's extended invitation to Stephen Grief, who has expressed keen interest in appearing. Let's again keep those digits crossed. Just remember ALL GUEST APPEARANCES ARE SUBJEST TO WORK COMMITMENTS; if they get work, they may not be able to arrange their schedule and come.

I've been hearing excited chatter about costumes. The discussions are about costumes from all fandoms, including *Robin of Sherwood, Gone With the Wind, Battlestar Galactica* and *Star Trek*. I can't wait to see these as well as some of the costumes which will simply come out of a fevered fannish imagination. Remember, there will be hall judging on costumes. You may not know it but that stranger admiring your costume may well be a judge in disguise himself. So get those creative juices flowing.

The clubs are being given an hour each morning for fan panels. Tom Beck of the Prydonians has generously offered to coordinate this area of the convention. Please note that these panels are solely for the use of the NY/NJ/PA clubs and are not related to normal fan panels. If you have any ideas or would like to be on a panel, send your submission to Tom at 216 Witherspoon Street, Princeton, NJ 08543. Please try to let Tom know by December 1st so he can arrange a schedule. Please note that this is a special thank you from the committee for the enthusiasm with which the area clubs have greeted the idea of GAMBIT as well as all the hard work we have done to help make it a success.

The contributors party is also beginning to look really great. The con com will be playing croupiers so any contributors may mingle and gamble with the guests. Remember, even if you can't afford the $50.00 contribution necessary to go to the the contributors party, there are all kinds of special raffles and such you will be able to participate in simply by contributing as little as $5.00 or $10.00.

If you need any more information, please get in touch with me by calling (914) 835-5486 between the hours of 7-10 pm or by writing to me at Xenon Base, 72 Holland Street, Harrison, NY 10528. Please note this new address as I have recently moved. Also, I do not as yet have an answering machine at Xenon Base, nor do I have a Wandering Class Planet Hopper, so if the shuttle is late and you don't get me on the first try, please call again.

* * * * *

UPDATE: Since Cathy's communication, there have been a few new developments on the GAMBIT scene. Steven Pacey has been invited to attend (he has in the past expressed interest in coming to an American con to members who have seen him while visiting England) and word has finally reached the committee that Jacqueline Pearce has accepted their invitation and will, barring professional commitments, be happy to appear. Ed.

VARON & KLYN
Attorneys at Law
Capitol Dome
England Zone
Earth

Mr. Kerr Avon
Ms. Dayna Mellanby
Mr. Del Tarrant
Mr. Vila Restal
Ms. Soolin (last name unknown)
c/o Mr. Roj Blake
Rebel Base, Gauda Prime

To Whom it May Concern:

This letter is to inform you that our client, Gunsar the Magnificent, Jr., will not be returning your security deposit for the rental of Xenon Base. Furthermore, he is considering legal action to recoup the cost of repairing and rebuilding said base, which was severly destroyed during your occupancy.

When you sublet the base from Mr. Dorian, it was in top condition, neat, tidy and decorated by the best in the business, Pella of Seska. However, since you moved in there has been nothing but problems. Your fighting with-and killing off-the neighbors has definitely put a damper on the happy, friendly and peaceful feeling of the community. Furthermore, the people who have been seen coming and going are not the sort of thing which Xenon ordinarily welcomes with open arms.

The estimated cost of damage to both my client's property and good name is estimated at 10,000,000 credits. If you wish to negotiate this figure, please feel free to contact me on a sub-ether channel any day between the hours of 9:00 am and 5:00 pm earth standard time.

Yours Sincerely

Alta S. Moray

cc: Commissioner Sleer
Justice Department Supervisor

From the Library Desk

Yes, to all you library members, new and old, who thought I may have succombed to some dreaded "space bug" or been kidnapped (now that is not too far off!) I am alive and well—and the library is prospering. But, due to my being "kidnapped" by the duties of editing this glorious newsletter, I have not been able to keep my library correspondence up-to-date. I apologize for this and hope to get back in the swing of things within the very near future. PROMISES! PROMISES!

Really folks, the library is ever (and I do mean ever), on my mind these last few months as I learned the intracacies of putting out the *Renegade* each month. It's deadlines just seem more demanding—and immediate.

Please don't feel I have forgotten or abandoned you. I am even now redoing the "library list," which currently has over 600 titles, on the desktop publisher (there, I knew it would be of some use other than the newsletter) to bring it down to about 3 pages (down from 9 on the word processer) so it is more mailable.

I will be so happy, and relieved, when you are all comfortably nestled in your favorite chair with your latest library zine.—and I'm sure you will be too. Your patience is to be commended.

Thank you all.

DATES AT A GLANCE

NOVEMBER 19: NJN Celebration of 25 Years of *Doctor Who*, Newark Airport Marriott Hotel
NOVEMBER 20: 25th ANNIVERSARY PRYDONIAN/UNEARTHLY CHILDREN BIRTHDAY BASH
Burlington Township, NJ
NOVEMBER 20-25: Doctor Who Silver Anniversary Cruise, SS Galileo, iami, Key West, Cozumel and Cancun
NOVEMBER 25-27: Creation Thanksginving Show, Penta Hotel, NY
DECEMBER 4: DECEMBER ASSEMBLY
FEBRUARY 10-12, 1989: GAMBIT, Newark, NJ
FEBRUARY 17-19, 1989: CLIPPERCON VI, Hunt Valley, MD.
MARCH 10-12, 1989: WEEKEND IN THE COUNTRY, Hunt Valley, MD
MARCH 10-12, 1989: LUNACON '89, Tarreytown, NY
APRIL 28-30: FREEDOM CITY, Towson, MD
MAY 26-29, 1989: MEDIAWEST CON 009, Lansing, MI
JULY 7-9, 1989: SHORE LEAVE 11, Hunt Valley, MD
JULY 7-9, 1989: SCORPIO VII, Oakbrook, IL
AUG 31-Sept 4, 1989: NOREASCON III, Sheraton, Boston, MA
SEPTEMBER 21-23, 1989: N. AMER. TIME FESTIVAL, Columbus, Ohio

*****Please note adjusted dates for Clippercon VI!!!**

PRYDONIANS OF PRYNCETON

PO Box 3194
Princeton, NJ 08543-3194

SECOND CLASS POSTAGE
PAID AT PRINCETON, NJ

Karen and Scott 11/88
Avenue
Audubon, NJ 08106

Warning! If your address label is printed
in *green*, your membership expires at the end of next month.
If your address label is printed in *red*,
your membership expires with this issue.
This is your last issue of the *Renegade*
unless you renew your dues by the end of the month.
DATED MATERIAL - PLEASE RUSH!

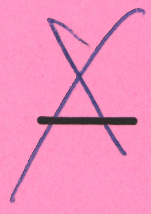
Never Say Goodbye!

As of the end of this month, your membership in The Prydonians of Prynceton will expire. This means you will no longer receive each monthly issue of *The Prydonian Renegade,* with its special combination of news and entertainment. You might even end up in the cold as far as news about Doctor Who and Blakes 7 goes.

Unless you renew now! Why not take the next few minutes to fill out the attached form and send it in with your dues renewal? Just a few minutes will guarantee you twelve more months of membership in the best local Doctor Who/Blakes 7 fan club in the country. Do it now—even the Doctor (or Vila) wouldn't procrastinate about this.

Welcome back to The Prydonians of Prynceton!

Important Reminder—dues are now $8 for individuals, $9 for families. Thanks!



If this is checked, then you're a family membership and your dues renewal will be $9!

Of Course I'm Staying!

Dear Prydonians of Prynceton:

You bet I wanna remain a member! Enclosed is my dues renewal. Please don't give my robe and funny collar to Goodwill of Gallifrey.

I enclose ___ ($8) for an individual membership renewal or ___ ($9) for a family membership renewal (write all family members' names below).*

Name(s)_____

Address _____

City_____ State_____ Zip Code _____

Telephone (___)_____ Favourite DW or B7 Character(s)_____

**The US Postal Service requires us to inform you that about $7 of this will go to pay for the actual expenses of the newsletter; the rest will go for general club expenses.*

___ I'd also like to join the club's Fanzine Lending Library. Enclosed is my $10 Library membership fee.

mail to: **The Prydonians of Prynceton**
PO Box 3194
Princeton, NJ 08543-3194